

6 December 1946

COUNTRY : Rumania

SUBJECT : Craiova Air Base

50X1-HUM

INFORMATION

EVALUATION

REFERENCE

### 1. Airfield

The field is located three kilometers east of Craiova (44°18'N, 23°49'E) along the National highway leading to Farsani. It is about 1,000 meters long from east to west and 800 meters wide from north to south. There is a concrete strip 400 meters x 200 meters at the southeast end. The remaining surface is of mixed gravel and sand and is soft. Because of its size and surface, the field cannot be used for heavy bombers. There is a night illumination system; a separate searchlight battery is located south of the highway near the southwest end of the field.

### 2. AA Emplacements

Three batteries of 37-mm. AA guns are located near the highway close to the southeast end of the field. At about one kilometer southwest of these emplacements a heavy AA unit is situated (size and equipment undetermined). Target practice by AA units was observed.

### 3. 17th Air Army Fighter School

This school is located in the former civilian airport installations at the west end of the field. The school has 4 hangars, each 1,500 square meters in size with an entrance 40 meters wide; the headquarters, classrooms and billets are installed in a two-story building, formerly the civilian administration building. The building can be recognized from the air at night by the illumination on its roof, the most western light on the

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field. On 10 September, 30 LA-7's, bearing 12th Air Army insignia, were stationed before the fighter school hangars. 28 YAK 9's with the same insignia were dispersed over the field. Some engaged later in AA target practice a few kilometers south of the field.

#### 4. Capacity

The maximum capacity is 250 fighter planes. Before the 1944 Armistice the German Air Force had 3 squadrons of JU-87's and JU-88's and one squadron of ME-109's on the field. Until early 1946 a bomber group of the 2nd Rumanian Bomber Fleet comprising JU-88's, Bloch, Savoia and IAR 81's were stationed at the field, but only at the eastern end. Installations at this end are still in Rumanian hands but are also used by the Soviets.

#### 5. Aircraft

As of 10 September 1946 there were only two Savoia-Marchetti Rumanian transports and 10 Soviet Tata reconnaissance planes stationed on the concrete runway of the eastern portion of the field. These are served by approximately 100 Rumanians.

#### 6. Operations Tower

Located at the southeast corner of field, the tower is operated by the Russians and serves both the Fighter school and installations on the east.

#### 7. Hangars on East

There are seven hangars 60 x 30 meters, each of steel construction with concrete foundations. No major repair conducted here.

#### 8. Billets on East

There is a two-story building with a capacity of 800 men. It is currently occupied by Rumanian and Soviet maintenance personnel of company strength.

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